

XIII.—*Observations on the Genera Camptonyx and Tanysiphon of Benson.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S. &c.

IN a preceding Number of the 'Annals'* I have pointed out the affinity of the genus *Camptonyx* to *Otina*, simply from the description of the animal; but, now I have had the opportunity of seeing the figures, I am convinced of the soundness of the comparison, and indeed I am almost induced to believe that *Camptonyx* is only a very slight modification or subsection of that genus, as the lateral groove is much slighter than I had expected, and the shell is an *Otina* as well as the animal.

I may further add, that the South American genus *Chilina*, which has been referred to *Auriculadæ* and *Lymneadæ*, if the figures and description of the animal by D'Orbigny and Dr. Gould are correct, is evidently another genus of the same family.

The figure of the teeth of *Camptonyx* does not justify the assertion of their similarity to those of *Ancylus*, as may be proved by comparing the figure in the 'Annals' with those of *Ancylus* given by Dr. Otto Goldfuss and others, or the description of the teeth of *Ancylus* and *Velletia* given by Mr. W. Thomson in the 'Annals.'

All that can be said is, that they have the normal teeth of the Pulmonata, with certain generic or specific peculiarities.

In the same Number of the 'Annals,' Mr. Benson described an interesting genus of freshwater bivalve mollusk found living in the slaty clay banks of the River Jumna.

I cannot understand how any conchologist could have doubted its distinctness from *Novaculina*, either malacologically or conchologically. It appears to me equally extraordinary how a shell with external cartilage and diverging cardinal teeth can be placed in *Myacidae*, unless the latter family is to have a much more extended sense than I am willing to give to it. It appears to agree with *Mya*, as far as I can discover by the description, only in two particulars, for the number and extension or non-extension of the gills in the siphon are not noticed:—

First, that the siphons are united; and secondly, that the apex of the siphons near the aperture is surrounded with a ring of tentacles, and the aperture of the branchial siphon is bearded. The union and non-union, and the extent of the union of the siphons, have been proved, by the examination of a number of animals, not to be of much importance, certainly not affording a family character: indeed, very nearly allied genera of the same family frequently vary in these particulars; several genera besides *Mya*, with united siphons, have a ring of tentacles round the base of the two apertures.

* Ann. Nat. Hist. 3 ser. vol. i. p. 406.

So far as I can judge from the description of this genus, it appears to be very nearly allied to *Glaucanome*, which is found in the rivers of Asia, and it is chiefly separated from the known species of that genus by the siphons of the animal being united to the end, while in the animal of the only species of *Glaucanome* which has been observed, they are only united at the base; but the siphons of different species of several genera vary in the extent to which the siphons are united.

Mr. Benson observes, "the branchial siphon is ciliated in *Solecortus*." Perhaps Mr. Benson intends by "cilia" tentacles or beards; for I am not aware that any of the conchiferous Mollusca have the siphons destitute of cilia. But the question is, what does Mr. Benson mean by *Solecortus*? as that name has been given to a number of different animals. *Novaculina* is evidently most nearly allied to "*Tagel*" of Adanson (*Solen Guinensis*, Gmelin), to which I have given the name of *Tagelus* in my list of genera, so long ago as 1848, when I placed *Novaculina* as a subdivision of that genus; and Mr. Benson's figure, now first published, justifies that position in all particulars, and is very different from the *Solecortus* of De Blainville (1824), which has *S. strigillatus* for its type.

Since the above was in type, Mr. Benson has kindly sent to the British Museum a specimen of each of these genera. They confirm the opinions above stated. *Tanysiphon* is evidently very nearly allied to *Glaucanome*, but is distinct in the teeth being more conical and less compressed, the hinder one shorter and less oblique, and especially in the cartilage and ligament being very short, and placed obliquely close behind the cardinal teeth; while in *Glaucanome* the cartilage and ligament are elongate and parallel with the cardinal edge, which is swollen into a well-developed fulcrum.

XIV.—*Gleanings in British Conchology.*

By J. GWYN JEFFREYS, Esq., F.R.S.

[Continued from vol. i. p. 48.]

[With a Plate.]

SINCE the publication of my former paper on this subject, several additions to the lists, both of species and localities, have occurred to me; these I will now take this opportunity of recording. They have been chiefly derived from the northern and southern extremities of the British Isles; and I have to express my best thanks to my friends Mr. Barlee and Dr. Lukis in particular, as well as to Mr. M'Andrew, Mr. Waller, Dr. Battersby, the Rev.